

vidual development along spiritual and humanitarian lines deny that the Christian religion, as evidenced in church work, has grown in popularity. Statistics show that in the United States since the formation of the republic the increase in church membership and in religious activity in all its parts has been greater than that of the population. Approximately the increase in population has been less than one-fourth as great as the increase in church membership. When the unbeliever considers that the Christian world spends as much as \$1,009,369,494 annually upon the support of churches, the propagation of the creed among heathen peoples and in works of charity, he finds his pessimistic charge of religious inactivity utterly without foundation.

The figures compiled by the Courier are as follows:

United States—Maintenance of all churches, \$137,563,200; education and literature, \$32,728,000; hospitals and orphanages, \$28,300,000; improvements and missions, \$43,000,000; miscellaneous, \$45,466,100.

England—Church of England offerings, \$37,122,170; church of England revenues, \$28,772,785; free church, \$25,332,500; catholic churches, \$11,111,282; education and literature, \$43,445,682; hospitals and orphanages, \$29,121,200; improvements and missions, \$18,850,765.

Scotland—All religious purposes, \$11,051,400.

Western and Northern Europe—Roman Catholic, \$102,138,200; protestant, \$67,290,400; other Christian purposes, \$34,500,000; Russia and Siberia, \$51,255,500; Greek church, Patriarch of Constantinople, \$5,625,000; Australia federation, \$6,900,000; Pacific islands and Madagascar, \$452,500; South Africa, \$2,500,000; West Indies, \$325,000; foreign missions not given before, \$2,900,000; constituencies on the mission fields, \$701,000; Roman Catholic orders, \$21,489,000; Roman Catholic missions, \$9,400,000; literature and education not given before, \$30,440,000; orphanages not included above, \$16,080,000; Sunday-schools, lesson papers and libraries, \$6,200,500; improvements and repairs, \$25,000,000; percentage estimated for non-reporting, \$69,800,000; miscellaneous, \$2,500,000.

There is nothing at all discouraging in the outlook. In the countries already Christianized our religion is gaining in popularity every year and strong-souled soldiers of the cross are carrying the light into heathen nations. The indications are that the close of the present century will witness the complete triumph of Christianity thru-out the world.

## Our Young People

### BIBLE READING:

"I will make it the rule of my life to pray and read the Bible every day." II Tim. 3:1-17.

Topic for Oct. 27.

### HOME READINGS

Mon., Oct. 21, Divine Truth, Lk. 1:1-4; Acts 18:24-28.

Tues., Oct. 22, God's message, John 5:39; 20:30, 31; Heb. 1:1, 2.

Wed., Oct. 23, The Spirit as teacher, John 14:25-27; I Cor. 2:14-16.

Thur., Oct. 24, Our constant need, John 16:7-15.

Fri., Oct. 25, The key to knowledge, Ps. 119:97-100; Jer. 8:8, 9; Rom. 3:1, 2.

Sat. Oct. 26, Daily food, Acts 17:1-11.

Sun. Oct. 27, The topic.

Rev. F. B. Myer says that you can measure a Christian's growth in grace by his love of private Bible study.

This is true because private Bible study means growth in grace and the more study the more grace.

The Bible is not given to us as a text-book on history or science or anthropology or art. It is a book of illustrations with moral lessons and of direct moral precepts all based on the moral character of God.

The writers were men who knew God better than the average people of their times and out of their experiences with God they brought the truths which have been the inspiration of others thru-out the ages.

There is no more helpful clause in the C. E. pledge than that which brings us daily to this Book of books, the Bible.

### WHAT THE BIBLE IS TO US

We shall better appreciate the value of daily Bible study if we realize the great part of the Bible in the Christian life. It is not much to some because they do not allow it to be much. It will be more to all of us if we use it aright.

1. The Bible is a means of regeneration. Jas. 1:8. I Pet. 1:23. The discovery of gravitation, evolution and other scientific truth has revolutionized science. The one who has followed the standard of the world will find in the Bible a standard which will come as a revelation and revolutionize his life if he accepts it.

A certain skeptical sea captain was sick and was asked by a minister to read the Bible and mark in red anything he found that he could accept. He soon came to John 3:16 and re-read it and then marked it and soon had the whole Bible marked in red.

The Book has power to transform as no other book has. Give illustrations of conversion thru Bible study.

2. The Bible is a help to faith. Rom. 10:14-17. Truth convicts and the Bible presents the truth in such a way as to carry conviction with it.

Does real Bible study ever produce skeptics?

3. The Bible is a means of justification. Rom. 4:3. He who accepts the truth of God accepts God. The attitude we show toward God's word is the same as that which we have toward God himself. The act of accepting God's truth as we find it in the Bible is counted for righteousness.

Why is it true that a person who rejects one thing knowingly shows by this that he is against all good?

4. The Bible is a means of sanctification. John 17:17; 15:3. The character of God himself is revealed in his word and the study of it leads us on from character to character to the fullness of the stature of manhood in Christ.

Is any one so good that the study of the Bible will not make him better? Why?

5. The Bible is a means of growth. I Pet. 2:1, 2. It is an ocean of truth in which we may find new pearls whenever we dive into it. As the mind grows by adding knowledge so Christian character grows by adding higher ideals and truer conceptions of God. These we find by Bible study.

Why do some fail to grow in grace?

How will a few moments with the Bible each morning change the thoughts and actions of the day?

6. The Bible is a means of guidance. Ps. 119:105. The world is full of pitfalls and seductive by-paths. We need the counsel of the holy men of God who learned to recognize these dangers and warn us of them.

Do we all need guidance? How may we find guidance in the Bible?

7. The Bible is a means of strength. Ps. 119:11. It is the "sword of the spirit." Eph. 6:7, and by it we may prevail.

How did Jesus use the word in his temptation in the wilderness?

### HINTS FOR TALKS AND TESTIMONIES

A woman who became a great Sunday-school teacher and a lovely character was asked the secret

of it. She said that her husband had fixed in the kitchen a little side-board where she kept her Bible open and in passing to and fro during the day she would pause to read a verse and then would meditate upon it. Try the plan.

The Bible is like the letter that the baby writes as the mother holds its hand. Only the heart can read it.

Dr. Moorehead whom many have learned to know and love at Winona uses this illustration. A little girl had a dissected map which she could not fit together until she turned the pieces over and found the picture of a man. She fitted the parts of the man together and found the map complete. Read the Bible with reference to the man Christ Jesus. Find him and all the other questions will take care of themselves.

How we got our Bible, I Pet. 1:20, 21.

How we know the Bible is inspired—because it inspires us.

How we can learn to use the Bible aright—keep the C. E. pledge to read it every day.

How to understand the Bible—obey what you do understand.

C. F. YODER.

## Sisters' S. C. E.

### From the President

Various letters have been and are still singing the praises of a "best conference" which is indeed very gratifying news. To those of us who could not be there to enjoy was left the privilege of joining the zealous workers at the throne of intercession. "Conference" was the burden of the prayers offered at the Ridgely mid-week prayer meeting the night before the first session.

The increased interest in foreign missions is certainly one of the best signs of a living and therefore progressive church. While I could not mingle my voice with those who spoke in behalf of missions, my testimony, expressing a willingness to go, was there nevertheless. Shall not this glorious impulse, so strengthened at our last conference, give added life and power to the S. S. C. E. department of the church?

In a week or two the report of the year's work will appear in these columns, that you may all have the benefit of it. According to the wish of the society, I have re-appointed the old members of the committee to gather offerings for the superannuated fund, with additional new members, one for each district. I shall ask for the co-operation of every pastor of the district of each of these members as they may apply to them. This movement may not detract from the theological fund in the supply of which there should be no lagging. A number of the young men of the theological class did regular preaching during their summer vacation. Thus we may already see some of the fruits of this department. Brother Harvey Holsinger preached for his home church at Ridgely and his successful effort speaks well for the College. Their little prayer circle desire especially to remember the Bible class at their regular Wednesday night meeting. The Ridgely S. S. C. E. rendered a missionary program on the last Sunday night in September. The recitations by the little